Alberta Quarterly Population Report

December 20, 2011 | Third Quarter 2011

Population Estimates

As of October 1, 2011, Alberta's population was estimated to be 3,798,791, an increase of 63,724 persons from the year before (**Table 1**). For the years ending October 1, Alberta's population growth rate jumped to 1.71% in 2011, up from 1.36% the previous year. This marks the first time since October 1, 2009 that Alberta's year-on-year population growth has been the highest in Canada. In the third quarter of 2011 Alberta's population increased by 0.51%, adding 19,438 persons. Only Yukon (0.65%) and Saskatchewan (0.53%) had higher quarterly growth rates.

TABLE 1: POPULATION & GROWTH RATES CANADA & ALBERTA

	Population		Annual Growth Rate		
1 Oct	Canada	Alberta	1 Oct	Canada	Alberta
2006	32,690,242	3,452,956	2006	1.04%	3.17%
2007	33,048,782	3,530,926	2007	1.10%	2.26%
2008	33,448,916	3,613,795	2008	1.21%	2.35%
2009	33,856,945	3,684,864	2009	1.22%	1.97%
2010	34,254,344	3,735,067	2010	1.17%	1.36%
2011	34,605,346	3,798,791	2011	1.02%	1.71%

Source: Statistics Canada

The national population increased by 1.02%, adding over 350,000 persons from a year ago (**Table 1**). Among the provinces, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba had the highest growth rates, with 1.71%, 1.45% and 1.27% respectively **(Table 3)**. Only the Northwest Territories lost population relative to a year ago (-0.73%), but both Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador experienced minimal population growth.

TABLE 2: QUARTERLY COMPONENTS OF POPULATION GROWTH IN ALBERTA

Population July 1, 2011			**3,779,353**
Interprovincial Migration			3,136
plus	Interprovincial Arrivals	23,974	
minus	Interprovincial Departures	20,838	
International Migration			7,580
plus	Immigrants	8,619	
minus	Net Emigrants*	3,334	
plus	Non-Permanent Residents	2,295	
Natural Increase			8,722
plus	Births	14,237	
minus	Deaths	5,515	
Population October 1, 2011			**3,798,791**

**includes emigrants, net temporary emigrants and returning emigrants*
Source: Statistics Canada

Migration

Migration from all sources accounted for about 55% of the province's quarterly population growth. During the third quarter of 2011 (July to September), Alberta gained 3,136 persons in interprovincial migration (**Table 2**), compared to 1,155 last year, and a 2009 third quarter loss of over 2,000 (**Table 5**). In addition to Alberta, five other provinces/territories saw a net inflow of interprovincial migrants. However, Alberta's gain was roughly twice the net migration of these jurisdictions taken together (**Table 4**). Manitoba saw the largest net outflow of 1,473, followed by Nova Scotia (-780), New Brunswick (-779) and BC (-723).

Ontario contributed the most (1,006) to Alberta's net interprovincial gain (**Table 4**), followed by Manitoba (477), Nova Scotia (416) and BC (409). Alberta gained residents from every region except Yukon (-34) and Saskatchewan, with whom the net exchange was zero.

TABLE 3: POPULATION OF PROVINCES/TERRITORIES AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2011 & GROWTH RATES SINCE OCTOBER 1, 2010

	NL.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	QUE.	ONT.	MAN.	SASK.	ALTA.	B.C.	Y.T.	N.W.T.	NVT.
Population	511,272	146,152	946,378	755,810	8,002,098	13,422,912	1,254,658	1,063,535	3,798,791	4,592,034	34,891	43,485	33,330
Growth Rate	0.04%	1.25%	0.01%	0.23%	0.92%	1.03%	1.27%	1.45%	1.71%	0.93%	1.00%	0.73%	1.40%

Source: Statistics Canada

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Net international migration was an important source of growth in the third quarter of 2011, contributing 0.20% of the recorded growth in the provincial population. The 8,619 permanent residents who settled in Alberta from July to September was a 9% drop from a year ago (**Table 5**). Even so, it was the third highest quarterly level over the past four decades. After becoming positive last quarter, the number of non-permanent residents (NPRs) moving to Alberta continued to exceed those leaving the province, leading to a strengthening net inflow of 2,295 NPRs. As a result, a total of 7,580 net international migrants, including NPRs, moved to Alberta during the third quarter of 2011(**Table 2**). This was the highest third quarter net international migration since 2008, and a significant turnaround from the lows of 2010.

Natural Increase

Natural increase continues to be a significant driver of population growth for Alberta. Between July 1 and September 30 of 2011, it contributed 8,722 persons to Alberta's population, the result of 14,237 births and only 5,515 deaths. Over the quarter, the provincial population grew by 0.23% due to natural increase, the highest rate of all the provinces, and almost twice the national average rate of 0.13%.

TABLE 4: ORIGIN & DESTINATION OF INTERPROVINCIAL MIGRANTS
JULY 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2011

	Destination												
Origin	**NL**	**PEI**	**NS**	**NB**	**QC**	**ON**	**MB**	**SK**	**AB**	**BC**	**YT**	**NT**	**NU**
NL	0	31	294	135	188	749	43	70	852	188	0	21	0
PEI	62	0	160	61	158	532	15	11	240	193	10	7	0
NS	456	244	0	690	330	1,835	185	160	1,430	306	0	51	29
NB	230	135	618	0	909	1,144	61	50	831	296	0	0	16
QB	41	28	242	465	0	6,589	143	75	1,315	827	21	18	0
ON	951	330	1,901	1,045	5,684	0	1,356	1,299	6,308	4,274	129	102	24
MB	28	4	149	125	211	1,633	0	677	1,654	1,183	10	21	0
SK	30	28	39	62	192	1,127	484	0	2,962	892	0	0	5
AB	665	171	1,014	590	1,151	5,302	1,177	2,962	0	7,598	96	112	0
BC	108	46	510	247	1,134	4,724	720	971	8,007	0	150	87	0
YT	5	0	0	8	22	94	0	15	62	94	0	7	0
NT	36	0	9	32	9	146	38	41	263	114	36	0	72
NU	41	0	0	51	18	71	0	24	50	16	0	21	0

	NL	**PEI**	**NS**	**NB**	**QC**	**ON**	**MB**	**SK**	**AB**	**BC**	**YT**	**NT**	**NU**
In Migration	2,653	1,017	4,936	3,511	10,006	23,946	4,222	6,355	23,974	15,981	452	447	146
Out Migration	2,571	1,449	5,716	4,290	9,764	23,403	5,695	5,821	20,838	16,704	307	796	292
Net Migration	82	-432	-780	-779	242	543	-1,473	534	3,136	-723	145	-349	-146

	NL	**PEI**	**NS**	**NB**	**QC**	**ON**	**MB**	**SK**	**AB**	**BC**	**YT**	**NT**	**NU**
Outflow to AB	852	240	1,430	831	1,315	6,308	1,654	2,962	n/a	8,007	62	263	50
Inflow from AB	665	171	1,014	590	1,151	5,302	1,177	2,962	n/a	7,598	96	112	0
Net flow to AB	187	69	416	241	164	1,006	477	0	n/a	409	-34	151	50

Source: Statistics Canada

TABLE 5: ALBERTA MIGRATION BY QUARTER

Quarter	Interprovincial Migration			International Migration					Total
	In	Out	Net Interprovincial Migration	Immigrants	Net Non-Permanent Residents*	Emigrants	Net Temporary Emigrants	Returning Emigrants	Net International Migration**	Total Net Migration
2007										
Jan-Mar	18,625	13,900	**4,725**	4,015	4,227	1,237	500	645	**7,150**	**11,875**
Apr-Jun	21,947	17,270	**4,677**	5,595	5,840	1,637	568	1,137	**10,367**	**15,044**
Jul-Sep	26,228	24,023	**2,205**	6,171	5,034	3,360	727	1,079	**8,197**	**10,402**
Oct-Dec	15,614	13,579	**2,035**	5,085	2,573	1,945	543	452	**5,622**	**7,657**
Total	*82,414*	*68,772*	***13,642***	*20,866*	*17,674*	*8,179*	*2,338*	*3,313*	***31,336***	***44,978***
2008										
Jan-Mar	18,572	14,710	**3,862**	5,352	4,046	1,633	501	486	**7,750**	**11,612**
Apr-Jun	24,023	16,808	**7,215**	7,196	7,255	1,902	536	820	**12,833**	**20,048**
Jul-Sep	22,732	20,075	**2,657**	6,455	7,722	3,564	764	1,080	**10,929**	**13,586**
Oct-Dec	15,137	11,026	**4,111**	5,201	4,553	2,021	559	454	**7,628**	**11,739**
Total	*80,464*	*62,619*	***17,845***	*24,204*	*23,576*	*9,120*	*2,360*	*2,840*	***39,140***	***56,985***
2009										
Jan-Mar	18,711	14,026	**4,685**	5,764	4,476	1,495	488	487	**8,744**	**13,429**
Apr-Jun	18,658	16,927	**1,731**	7,739	2,657	1,560	497	822	**9,161**	**10,892**
Jul-Sep	16,263	18,283	**-2,020**	7,585	2,281	3,641	775	1,080	**6,530**	**4,510**
Oct-Dec	9,436	11,638	**-2,202**	5,929	-1,511	1,989	555	454	**2,328**	**126**
Total	*63,068*	*60,874*	***2,194***	*27,017*	*7,903*	*8,685*	*2,315*	*2,843*	***26,763***	***28,957***
2010										
Jan-Mar	15,008	14,860	**148**	6,762	-125	1,470	485	487	**5,169**	**5,317**
Apr-Jun	17,251	16,448	**803**	9,729	-770	1,531	494	822	**7,756**	**8,559**
Jul-Sep	21,702	20,547	**1,155**	9,485	-1,869	3,620	772	1,080	**4,304**	**5,459**
Oct-Dec	16,072	13,562	**2,510**	6,667	-6,794	2,003	556	454	**-2,232**	**278**
Total	*70,033*	*65,417*	***4,616***	*32,643*	*-9,558*	*8,624*	*2,307*	*2,843*	***14,997***	***19,613***
2011										
Jan-Mar	20,556	15,281	**5,275**	5,744	-558	1,479	486	487	**3,708**	**8,983**
Apr-Jun	23,715	18,995	**4,720**	8,290	1,233	1,538	494	822	**8,313**	**13,033**
Jul-Sep	23,974	20,838	**3,136**	8,619	2,295	3,642	772	1,080	**7,580**	**10,716**
Oct-Dec	n/a	n/a	**n/a**	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	**n/a**	**n/a**
Total	*68,245*	*55,114*	***13,131***	*22,653*	*2,970*	*6,659*	*1,752*	*2,389*	***19,601***	***32,732***

* Estimates of non-permanent residents (NPRs) represent the number of non-permanent residents living in Canada. The five following groups are referred to as NPRs: (1) persons residing in Canada claiming refugee status; (2) persons residing in Canada who hold a study permit; (3) persons residing in Canada who hold a work permit; (4) persons residing in Canada who hold a Minister's permit; (5) all non-Canadian born dependants of persons claiming refugee status, or of persons holding study permits, work permits or Minister's permits and living in Canada.

Source: Statistics Canada